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(Drafting Office and Officer)

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Memorandum of Conversation

SVE/MC-14

DATE: February 7, 1959

Time: 10:15 a.m.

Place: Orly Airport, Paris

SUBJECT: Contingency Planning and German Reunification

PARTICIPANTS: United States

The Secretary

France

Foreign Minister Couve de Murville

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Couve said he had been thinking of 1936 and the French failure to react quickly to the German re-occupation of the demilitarized area. He said that at that time the military had advised that they could not do so without prior mobilization measures but he said it now seemed in retrospect that they had been wrong. He felt that we should be prepared to react quickly with military force to any Soviet or GDR interference with our access to and from Berlin. He did not think that this should be preceded by any mobilization measures, removal of dependents or the like. He mentioned this as about the only significant point of difference between us. I told him that I was prepared to review this matter.

I then said that I too had been giving some thought to the broader aspect of the German problem. I said that we sometimes tended to forget the immense constructive developments that had occurred in the development of a Federal Republic which was genuinely friendly with France, something that has never existed before. They were tied in with France and other Western European countries by NATO, by the Brussels Treaty of Western European Union, by EURATOM, the Common Market, the Coal and Steel Community, etc. Also, Germany was now working with the Western Powers to help other countries such as Turkey. It would, I thought, be a grave mistake to jeopardize this in order to buy reunification. Couve said that he fully agreed, but felt as I had indicated yesterday that there might be measures whereby the Federal Republic could more effectively project its influence into the GDR.

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By BG NARA Date 10/26